

What is Claimed Is:

1. Apparatus for cleaning parts which have been in contact with paint from a hand-held paint spray gun, the apparatus comprising a cleaning cap having:
  - a. a first fitting for receiving a paint cup;
  - b. a second fitting for receiving a garden hose; and
  - c. an outlet passageway providing an outlet fluid communication path from an interior of the cap to an exterior of the cap.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first fitting of the cleaning cap has a first set of threads.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the second fitting of the cleaning cap has a second set of threads.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the second set of threads are female hose fitting threads.
5. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the second set of threads are female three quarter by eleven and a half NH American Standard Hose Coupling threads.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cleaning cap has an inlet fluid communication path from the second fitting to an interior of the cap.
7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the inlet fluid communication path includes a pair of apertures.
8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein at least one of the pair of apertures has a crossbar extending thereacross.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein each of the pair of apertures has a partial obstruction of sufficient size to prevent parts being cleaned from passing through either aperture.
10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the inlet fluid communication path includes a pair of sleeves, with each one of the pair of sleeves extending from and in fluid communication with a respective one of the pair of apertures.
11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein at least one sleeve has a crossbar extending thereacross.
12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the crossbar is positioned in the sleeve to provide a positive stop for a dual hose fitting received in the sleeve.
13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the outlet fluid communication path includes a trough extending from the interior to the exterior of the cap.
14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the trough surrounds at least a portion of the sleeves.
15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the trough extends completely around and is spaced apart from the sleeves.
16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the trough has a first portion oriented in a generally radial direction.
17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the trough has a second portion oriented in a generally axial direction.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the trough has a second portion oriented downward when the cap is located in an upright position.
19. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the outlet fluid communication path extends from an interior of the cap to an exterior of the cup when the cap is attached to a paint cup.
20. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the outlet passageway includes a fluid permeable barrier in the outlet fluid communication path having openings sufficiently large to permit the flow of water from the interior of the cap to the exterior of the cap and wherein the openings are sufficiently small to block the expulsion of any one of a set of parts being cleaned.
21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the fluid permeable barrier is a plurality of fins aligned with a direction of fluid flow in the outlet fluid communication path.
22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the fins are spaced apart a distance sufficiently small to prevent the passage of any one of the set of parts being cleaned.
23. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the fins are spaced apart a distance less than the smallest outside dimension of the smallest part of the set of parts being cleaned.
24. A method of cleaning parts from a hand held paint spray gun of the type having a paint cup, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. disassembling wetted parts from the paint spray gun;
  - b. placing the wetted parts in a paint cup;
  - c. attaching a cleaning cap to the paint cup wherein the cleaning cap includes:
    - i. a first fitting for receiving the paint cup,

- ii. a second fitting for receiving a garden hose coupling, and an outlet passageway providing an outlet fluid communication path from an interior of the cap to an exterior of the cap;
  - d. attaching a garden hose to the second fitting; and
  - e. causing water to flow through the garden hose, cleaning cap and paint cup.
25. A method for cleaning an extended suction set of the type having a double lumen hose and dual hose fitting for attachment to a hand held paint spray gun using a pump housing locking collar to hold the dual hose fitting to a pump housing of the paint spray gun, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. disassembling the extended suction set from the paint spray gun;
  - b. attaching the extended suction set to a cleaning cap wherein the cleaning cap includes:
    - i. a double lumen fitting for receiving the dual hose fitting;
    - ii. an integral female hose coupling for receiving a male garden hose coupling,
    - iii. a fluid passageway providing a fluid communication path from the female hose coupling to the double lumen fitting;
  - d. attaching a garden hose to the female hose coupling; and
  - e. causing water to flow through the garden hose, cleaning cap and extended suction set.
26. Apparatus for cleaning an extended suction set of the type having a double lumen hose and dual hose fitting for attachment to a hand held paint spray gun using a pump housing locking collar to hold the dual hose fitting to a pump housing of the paint spray gun, the apparatus comprising a cleaning cap including:
- i. a double lumen fitting for receiving a dual hose fitting;
  - ii. an integral female hose coupling for receiving a male garden hose coupling,

iii. a fluid passageway providing a fluid communication path from the female hose coupling to the double lumen fitting such that when a garden hose is attached to the female hose coupling and water flowing through the garden hose will be directed through the cleaning cap and extended suction set.